

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-111-C-143  
 Rocky Gap State Park  
 Evitts Home Site  
 Evitts Creek Quad

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Evitts Home Site  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Rocky Gap State Park  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sixth  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Maryland Department of Natural Resources Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER Taylor Avenue  
 CITY, TOWN Annapolis \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Maryland zip code 21401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allegany County Courthouse Liber #:  
 Folio #:  
 STREET & NUMBER Washington Street  
 CITY, TOWN Cumberland STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Evitts home site is located about 100 feet east of a trail which climbs Evitts Mountain on Rocky Gap State Park between Cumberland and Flintstone in Allegany County, Maryland. The site is situated near the top of the mountain on its southeast slope. All that remains is a clearing on a level area of the mountain side, a small depression in the ground surrounded by ruins of foundations and a hand dug well lined with stone. Near the house site are lengths of field stone fences running through the forest. Part of an early 19th century cast iron stove plate was found lying on the ground near the foundations. Trees that have grown up inside the stone fences appear for the most part to be 50-75 years old.

The site is traditionally believed to be the home of the first settler in Allegany County whose name was Evert or Evitt. He supposedly came to this place in the 1730's and the mountain upon which he settled has been named for him.

The site now marked was obviously inhabited by someone who valued its remote location but nothing has been found at the present time to indicate that the site was occupied during the early 18th century. The only datable evidence is the fragment of the stove plate from the early 19th century and the age of the trees in the stone fenced enclosures.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Evitts site lies in its representation of a lifestyle based upon remote conditions. It seems odd that someone would choose to live on a cold, windy mountainside farm when there was more fertile agricultural land available. Perhaps archeological work will reveal more about this piece of property. If it is land that was settled by Evitt then the site has additional significance as the home of the first known white settler in Allegany County. Further documentation is necessary, however, before the early origins of this farm site will be known. Attached is a copy of an excerpt from Thomas J. Scharf's History of Western Maryland concerning "Evert the Englishman" and describing his supposed home site.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates, Inc.

DATE

January, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 202

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

### Derivation of Names of Mountains and Streams.<sup>1</sup>

The first white man who penetrated the wilds of the mountain region of Allegany County was an individual named Evert. Tradition says that he was an Englishman by birth, and a man of education who had seen much of civilized life. The Western settlements of the white man had not then penetrated farther into the forest than the Conococheague, and that fierce struggle for the possession of the country was going on between the white and the aborigines which in nearly every portion of our land has been marked by blood and cruelty. Evert, driven to desperation by disappointment in love, penetrated that part of the country which stretches some sixty miles west of the Conococheague, and built a cabin on the top of a mountain some seven miles northeast of the present city of Cumberland. The trail of the Indians, as they traversed the mountainous region lying between the Atlantic and the western waters, passed along the valley of the Potomac and crossed Dan's Mountain, some eight miles south of the spot where Evert built his cabin. There upon the top of a mountain, far from the habitation of civilized man, and even from the haunt of the red man of the forest, this singular individual took up his lonely abode. It is asserted that his disgust for civilized life was caused by the frailty, fickleness, or falsehood of a woman on whom he had placed his hopes of happiness. When these were wrecked he sought the wilderness. Neither the allurements of civilized life, nor the dangers of the forest, traversed only by the savage, were sufficient to deter him. Without expecting or desiring ever to see the face of civilized man, he fixed his habitation far in the wilderness, and on so rugged a spot that even to this day perhaps not a dozen individuals have ever visited the spot where his cabin was built.

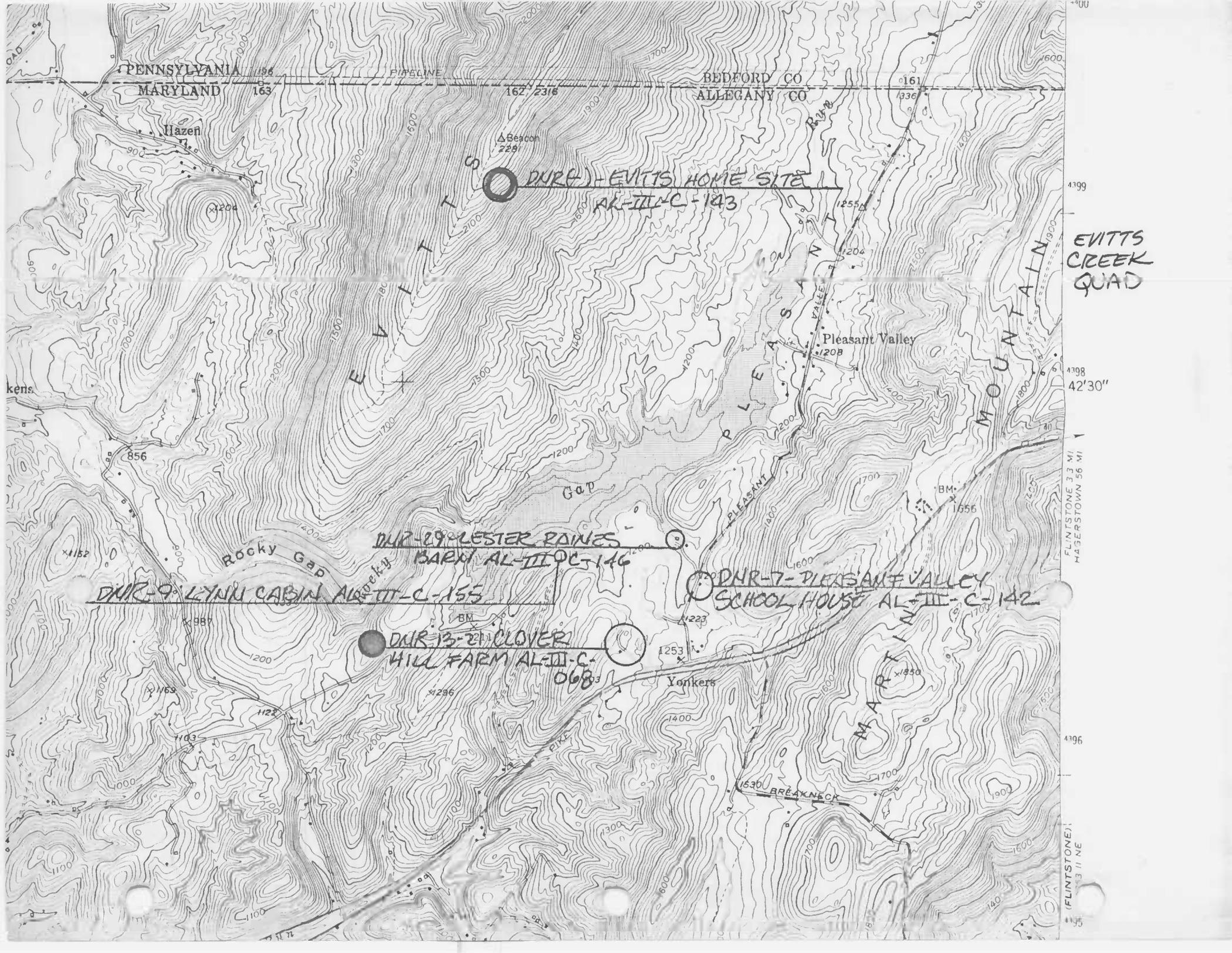
Shortly after Gen. Thomas J. McKaig removed to Maryland he heard the story of the residence of "Evert the Englishman" from George Hughes, then some eighty years old, and one of the earlier settlers of this part of Maryland. In order to test the truth of the tradition, Gen. McKaig procured a mountain-guide and went in search of the spot where it was said Evert's cabin had stood. Traversing the side of the mountain now known as "Evert's" or Evert's Mountain for some distance north of the point where the turnpike leading from Hagerstown to Cumberland crosses Martin's Mountain, Gen. McKaig and his guide left their horses, and with much labor reached the top of

<sup>1</sup> The author is indebted to Gen. T. J. McKaig, formerly of Cumberland, for the information contained in the accompanying sketch of the derivation of names of mountains and streams in Allegany County.

the mountain near the point where the stream called "Evert's Creek" breaks through the mountain. Here he found undoubted evidence that the spot where he then stood had been the residence of the hermit. Even then silence covered the mountain, and with the eloquence of Ajax among the dead served to tell the melancholy story of its former occupant. On the top of the mountain, or at least that which seemed the top, was a level piece of ground of about two acres, with good soil, that had been cleared and in cultivation. The mountain gradually rose to the north, for at the brow of the mountain in clear soil was a fine spring of mountain-water. The access to the top was so rugged that cattle seldom, if ever, reached it. The grass had grown up and fallen until it formed a sward as soft as a bed of down. The house or cabin was gone, but the chimney, of rude stone, some ten or twelve feet high, was still standing. There were scattered around some three or four apple-trees, two pear-trees, some sprouts from the peach-trees, and one plum-tree. Over the whole surface of that part which had been cultivated the English strawberry had spread, and was then growing in great profusion. Gen. McKaig brought down with him some of the roots, and had them transplanted in Cumberland, from which has been produced the finest quality of the English strawberry. Here, in this solitary spot, lived one whom neither the thirst for gold, nor the speculative spirit of adventure, nor the maddening zeal of religious enthusiasm had driven from civilization and home and friends, but a romantic disappointment which he had permitted to blight his life. His idea seems to have been to lose his identity and bury his name, but in this he failed, for his name still clings to the mountain on which he resided, and to the stream which flows at its base. George Hughes fixes his death prior to the year 1750, but when or under what circumstances it took place no human being ever knew, nor was there any friendly hand to close his eyes or perform the sad offices of sepulture.

Between the years of 1742 and 1745 there lived at Salisbury, near Williamsport, a family named Clemmer, consisting of the father, mother, three sons, and a daughter. The daughter was accidentally drowned. While returning with their neighbors from the funeral, one of the boys riding behind his father and another behind the mother, they were fired upon by a party of fifteen Delaware Indians. The men of the party, five in number, were all killed, and the horse on which the mother rode was killed. The two boys and the mother were captured. The mother on the day after the capture escaped, was retaken and murdered, and the two boys were brought by their captors to "Wills-

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Phila: Louis H. Everts. 1882.



PENNSYLVANIA  
MARYLAND

BEDFORD CO  
ALLEGANY CO

Hazen

△ Beacon  
229

DNR-4 - EVITTS HOME SITE  
AL-III-C-143

Pleasant Valley  
1208

EVITTS  
CREEK  
QUAD

DNR-29 - LESTER RAINES  
BARN AL-III-C-146

DNR-9 - LYNN CABIN AL-III-C-155

DNR-7 - PLEASANT VALLEY  
SCHOOL HOUSE AL-III-C-142

DNR-13 - CLOVER  
HILL FARM AL-III-C-068

4399

4398  
42'30"

FLINTSTONE 33 MI  
HAGERSTOWN 56 MI

4396

(FLINTSTONE)  
33 MI  
HAGERSTOWN 56 MI



Rocky Gap S. Pl.

Ewitts Home Site (Ewitts)

A-3

S.E. view

October, 1978

AL-111-C-143

Paula Stoner  
Preservation Associates



Rocky Gap St. Pr

Evitts Home Site

A-3

Remains of well

October, 1978

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Paula Stoner  
Preservation Associates

## EVART'S HOMESITE

THIS SITE IS BELIEVED TO BE THE HOMESITE AND  
FINAL RESTING PLACE OF MR. EVART (EVITT) WHO, REPORTEDLY,  
WAS THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER IN ALLEGANY COUNTY.

HE CAME HERE IN THE EARLY 1700'S TO ESCAPE  
CIVILIZATION AND TO LIVE AS A HERMIT.

THE REMAINS OF HIS FARM, WITH ITS STONE  
FENCES, WELL, AND ORCHARDS CAN BE SEEN HERE ON THE  
MOUNTAIN THAT BEARS HIS NAME.

Rocky Gap St. Pl.

Ewitts Home Site

A-3

S.E. View

October, 1978

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